

As the Chief of the Paterson Fire Department, Jim Pasquariello is a member of six professional associations: the Paterson Firefighter's Association, the International Association of Firefighters, the New Jersey Deputy Fire Chiefs' Association, the New Jersey Career Fire Chiefs' Association, the Passaic County Mutual Aid Association and the New Jersey Firefighter's Relief Association. Chief Pasquariello also serves on the Eighth Congressional District Public Safety Advisory Board, the New Jersey Department of Personnel Advisory Board and is a member of the Passaic Valley B.P.O. Elks Lodge #2111.

A native of Paterson, Jim was born on October 13, 1945 at Paterson General Hospital to James, Sr. and Cecilia. On January 15, 1966, Jim married his sweetheart, the former Marsha Helene Smith at Our Lady of Pompeii R.C. Church in Paterson. Jim is the father of three lovely daughters, Janine Brownley, Virginia and Suzanne.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not say for the record that as the former Mayor of the great City of Paterson, New Jersey, I had the distinct privilege of working closely with Jim Pasquariello on a regular basis. He was and still is the epitome of devotion and professionalism. More than all this, however, I am proud to call Jim my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Jim's family and friends and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of James Kenneth Pasquariello.

HONORING REBECCA DICKISON OF ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate and honor a young Alaska student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Rebecca Dickison of Anchorage, Alaska has just been named one of my state's top honorees in The 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Ms. Dickison is being recognized for her hard work and dedication in collecting new and used books and organizing a reading corner for children at the Intermission Crisis Nursery. She has volunteered her time to bring happiness and joy to those in need.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Dickison are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention, The Prudential Spirit of

Community Awards, was created by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. In only five years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 75,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Ms. Dickison should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Ms. Dickison for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can, and do, play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL DIALOGUE IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last December President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan was in Washington for the annual meeting of the U.S.-Kazakhstan Joint Commission. The purpose of these meetings, which are held alternately in the United States and Kazakhstan, is to promote political and economic cooperation between our two countries. The United States side regularly presses the government of Kazakhstan to improve its human rights record and to undertake much-needed political and economic reform.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that in December U.S. officials pressed the Kazakh participants because of serious American concerns about the sham parliamentary elections which were held last October, increased corruption, and an increase in abusive action taken against opponents of President Nazarbayev's increasingly repressive government.

Prior to last December's meeting and in an apparent move to blunt the expected pressure from the United States, President Nazarbayev issued a statement on November 4 saying that he was ready to cooperate with the political opposition and that he would welcome the return to Kazakhstan of former Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin, the exiled leader of the principal opposition party.

On November 19, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kazhegeldin responded to President Nazarbayev by calling for a "national dialogue" to examine ways to advance democracy, economic development and national reconciliation in Kazakhstan. Similar national dialogues have met with success in Poland, South Africa, and Nicaragua. Mr. Kazhegeldin pointed out that convening a national dialogue would be an ideal way to initiate cooperation between the opposition and the government.

Unfortunately, President Nazarbayev has reacted with stony silence to Mr. Kazhegeldin's proposal. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this is not the first occasion when Mr. Nazarbayev has reneged on his promises or taken actions that undermine democracy and economic reform in Kazakhstan. He has reneged on a pledge he made in November to ship oil through the proposed Baku-Ceyhan pipeline. He continues to refuse to settle investment disputes with foreign companies that have lost millions of dollars because the government failed to honor its commitments. He arranged to have a kangaroo court convict an opposition leader for having the temerity to criticize Mr. Nazarbayev's government.

Even more troubling and more threatening to our national security, an investigation and trial in Kazakhstan have failed to find anyone responsible for the delivery last year of 40 MIG fighter aircraft from Kazakhstan to North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, the Administration must stop turning the other cheek every time Mr. Nazarbayev commits another outrage. The cause of freedom, democracy, and economic reform will continue to suffer in Kazakhstan unless the Administration strongly supports the national dialogue along the lines proposed by Mr. Kazhegeldin and takes action to press the government of Mr. Nazarbayev to stand by its commitments.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that the Administration should also insist that the government of Kazakhstan make a minimum of one hour per week available for use by the opposition. In a country where the government still controls the media, this is a minimum for democracy to have any hope at all to develop along democratic lines. We also ought to insist that the democratic opposition be permitted to provide a printing press to replace those that have been confiscated by the government.

Mr. Speaker, the shocking lack of democracy in Kazakhstan and deliberate government actions and policies that have restricted political and economic reform are a matter of great importance to the United States. It is essential that the Administration press Mr. Nazarbayev to take remedial steps quickly.

INTRODUCTION OF A HOUSE RESOLUTION TO RESTORE THE UNITED STATES ASSAY COMMISSION

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce my introduction of a House Resolution designed to re-authorize the creation of the United States Assay Commission.

The Assay Commission was established in 1792, and operated uninterrupted until 1980 when it was finally abolished. During that time, it was the oldest continually operating committee in the federal government and brought in individuals to maintain oversight over a narrow aspect of the executive branch.

Originally authorized as part of the nation's first Mint Act of April 2, 1792, the purpose of the Assay Commission was to examine the nation's coins on an annual basis and certify to the President, Congress, and the American